

**STATEMENT BY PHILLIP C. ALLEN
INTERIM PORT DIRECTOR, PORT EVERGLADES
CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON
SEAPORT SECURITY
JANUARY 9, 2002
PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA**

PORT EVERGLADES SERVES MANY DIVERSE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION INTERESTS WITHIN OUR JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES INCLUDING CONTAINERIZED CARGO SHIPPING, PETROLEUM SHIPPING AND THE CRUISE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST DECADE TO BECOME OUR SINGLE LARGEST REVENUE PRODUCER.

PRIOR TO OUR NATION EXPERIENCING ITS SECOND DAY OF INFAMY, PORT EVERGLADES DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF SECURITY MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT OUR PORT UTILIZES THE BEST PRACTICES AVAILABLE TO COUNTER DRUG SMUGGLING AND OTHER CRIMINAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH SEAPORTS. AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, HOWEVER, WE HAD TO REEVALUATE OUR SECURITY NEEDS TO INCLUDE PROTECTING

THE PORT AND ITS CUSTOMERS FROM POSSIBLE ACTS OF TERRORISM. TODAY, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING A CRIME-FREE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR CLIENTS, WE ARE PREPARED TO GUARD OUR ASSETS AGAINST THE THREAT OF TERRORISM. OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS BELIEF IS EVIDENCED IN THE TESTIMONY PROVIDED IN THIS LETTER.

PORT EVERGLADES IS HOST TO MORE THAN 3 MILLION CRUISE PASSENGERS ANNUALLY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE BUSIEST CRUISE PORTS IN THE WORLD. WHILE THE SAFETY OF OUR PASSENGERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY, THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11 HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED THE WAY WE PROVIDE SECURITY.

BROWARD COUNTY HAD PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO CONSTRUCTING A 12 MILLION DOLLAR SECURITY PROJECT OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, THE BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVED THE

CONSTRUCTION OF A 25 MILLION DOLLAR EXPANDED SECURITY PROJECT AND DIRECTED STAFF TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT WITHIN 13 MONTHS. THE REFOCUS OF OUR SECURITY PROJECT HAS RESULTED IN RE-PRIORITIZING 13 MILLION DOLLARS FROM OTHER CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS -- MANY OF WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR PORT'S FINANCIAL STABILITY.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PRIVATE GUARD SERVICES WITHIN THE PORT. INCLUDED WITHIN THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MANDATORY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL PRIVATE GUARDS WORKING WITHIN PORT EVERGLADES. OUR CRITERIA WILL BE DEVELOPED WITH INPUT FROM THE BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES SERVING THE PORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT TRAINING REQUIREMENT OF FORTY HOURS, ESTABLISHED BY FLORIDA STATUTE 493, IS INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO PROTECT THIS CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. WE BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST AN ADDITIONAL 40 HOURS OF SEAPORT-SPECIFIC TRAINING ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT GUARDS ARE COMPETENT AND WELL TRAINED.

BROWARD COUNTY HAS HAD A BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF RESTRICTED USE ZONE PERMITS (I.D. CARDS) SINCE JULY 14, 1998 SIMILAR TO THAT OUTLINED WITHIN U.S. SENATE BILL 1214. WE PROCESS AND ISSUE 13,000 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREA PERMITS ANNUALLY TO INDIVIDUALS WORKING WITHIN THE PORT. AS A RESULT OF THE ENHANCED RESTRICTED USE ZONE POLICY THAT IDENTIFIES INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCLUSIONARY FELONIES, MORE THAN 400 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO SENSITIVE CARGO AREAS. AS PROOF TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR POLICY, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED A REDUCTION OF MORE THAN 31 PERCENT IN PART ONE CRIMES SINCE ITS IMPLEMENTATION THREE YEARS AGO.

PORT STAFF IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE FIRM OF BERMELLO - AJAMIL PARTNERS INC. AND CENTEX -ROONEY CONSTRUCTION TO FURTHER DEVELOP OUR SECURITY PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE. OUR CONSTRUCTION PLANS INCLUDE A CONCRETE WALL AROUND THE ENTIRE PERIMETER OF THE PETROLEUM AREAS, ROADWAY ACCESS GATES AT THREE ENTRANCES TO THE PORT, CAMERA MONITORING OF ALL COUNTY OWNED FACILITIES , AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL OF VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL TO HIGHLY VULNERABLE CRUISE PASSENGER AREAS AND WATERFRONT RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS. ALL ACCESS CONTROL DEVICES, CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION, AND INTRUSION ALARM SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN THE CRUISE TERMINALS WILL BE MONITORED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF. A REDUNDANT CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION MONITORING SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE LOCATED AT THE U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICES.

FOCUSING ON CONTAINERIZED CARGO, THE PORT HAS PURCHASED "STAR SYSTEM" GAMMA X-RAY EQUIPMENT DESIGNED TO ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO STOP THE EXPORTATION OF STOLEN AUTOMOBILES AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FROM THIS COUNTRY.

IN ADDITION TO THESE SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND ACCELERATION OF OUR SECURITY PROJECT, WE ARE CONTRACTUALLY INCREASING THE PRESENT STAFF OF 75 BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL TO 120 PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED EMPLOYEES. THE PREVIOUS COST FOR THIS SERVICE WAS 4.2 MILLION DOLLARS , BUT IS ANTICIPATED TO INCREASE BY 2 MILLION DOLLARS.

WHILE WE HAVE TAKEN EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO SECURE OUR FACILITIES WITH ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES, SWAT TEAMS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT VESSELS IN THE HARBOR, IT

HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH. TO ENSURE THAT THE PRIVATE SECURITY FIRMS PROTECTING OUR CRUISE PASSENGERS AND VESSELS WERE ADEQUATE, WE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED A CONTINGENT OF 141 FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS IN NOVEMBER. WE WERE GRANTED THIS CONTINGENT FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD. THESE TROOPS ARE OVERSEEING PRIVATE SECURITY OPERATIONS AND AUGMENTING THE BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT OUR CRUISE TERMINALS. THEY ARE ALSO ASSISTING THE BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITH CHECKPOINT SECURITY AND ROVING PATROLS THROUGHOUT OUR PETROLEUM TERMINALS.

UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LEVEL III SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD ARE NOT ANTICIPATED TO DIMINISH ONCE THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD HAS WITHDRAWN IN MARCH, WE ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS VITAL LEVEL OF SECURITY. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO

FEDERALIZE THE GUARD TROOPS ASSIGNED TO PORT EVERGLADES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PORT'S SECURITY PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IS FUNCTIONING.

ONCE THAT PROJECT IS COMPLETE, WE BELIEVE EFFECTIVE SECURITY FOR PORT EVERGLADES WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED WITH A COMPILATION OF OUR NEW SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCREASED PRESENCE OF BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL, AND LICENSING AND INCREASED TRAINING FOR ALL PRIVATE GUARD SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PORT. THESE ACTIONS WILL ENABLE US TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE LEVEL III SECURITY REQUIRED TO PROTECT THIS VITAL TRANSPORTATION LINK.

IN CLOSING, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD TO PROVIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE PORT SECURITY MEASURES ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT SACRIFICE TO THE GROWTH OF OUR COMMERCE. WE NEED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

TO ENSURE OUR BUSINESSES AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ARE PROTECTED AND ADEQUATE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUR GOALS. WE MUST ALSO ADDRESS SUCH SECURITY MEASURES ON A FEDERAL LEVEL TO ENSURE OUR PORT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED TO ANOTHER PORT THAT IS LESS CONCERNED WITH HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO PROVIDE YOU THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.